



FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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A Periodic Publication for Indiana AmeriCorps* Programs and Community Service Partners

August 5, 2005

Volume 5, Issue 10



Welcome to Friday Night Facts ! This issue reports the progress and work of the AmeriCorps*State projects in Indiana. As you will read, collectively there is no doubt that volunteerism and community service is alive and well in Indiana. Keep in mind that this is just a “drop in the bucket” of the many hours of volunteerism that are contributed for the health and well being of our state. Please note that with each hour of AmeriCorps service hours that are provided to a community that Non-AmeriCorps volunteer hours are also generated, event across state borders. Together our AmeriCorps members and volunteers are making a difference in Indiana and beyond. This is just another example of Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers.

AmeriCorps*State Programs in Indiana

Indiana’s AmeriCorps*State Programs are located throughout the State, from Elkhart in the northeast to Evansville in the southwest. Each program is in a different stage of development; a few are in the initial planning stages. There are currently twelve programs dedicated to a wide variety of services to Hoosiers. Some examples of the vital services that are, or will be, provided are as follows:

- Conflict management skills and character development to youth and families.
- Projects centered around education, citizenship and community development.
- Programs that address the issues of literacy, tutoring and recruitment, health and wellness, and self-sufficiency.
- After school programming, summer day camps, and school readiness programs for youth.
- Environmental education, restoration of natural areas, and environmental volunteerism, especially in community involvement.
- Building and renovating 80 affordable houses annually.
- Assisting juvenile offenders throughout the state who are transitioning from a correctional facility back to the community.
- Empowering individuals to identify strengths and overcome barriers to success using their own assets, and by creating opportunities for personal growth and development.
- Supporting the issue areas of public safety, human needs, community and economic development, education, and health/nutrition.

The OFBCI is pleased to provide the following aggregate statistics on the AmeriCorps*State programs, based on progress reports from the quarter ending on 6/30/05:

Total number of AmeriCorps members:	403
Hours of service for this quarter:	69,961.5
Year-to-date hours of service:	218,715
New non-AmeriCorps volunteers:	3,333
Quarterly non-AmeriCorps hours of service:	34,831
Year-to-date non-AmeriCorps volunteers:	8,793
Year-to-date non-AmeriCorps hours of service:	99,297
Total Federal funds authorized for this grant period is:	\$2,920,102

The following is one example of the dedication of Hoosier volunteers:

A Week of Love and Learning An AmeriCorps Member's Experience at Jimmy Carter Work Project 2005

Saturday, June 18 found Indiana HabiCorps members from throughout Indiana crossing state borders to participate in this year's Jimmy Carter Work Project in Benton Harbor Michigan. Each member came equipped with tool belt and hardhat, eager to begin a week of hard work. What they found instead was a week of fellowship and love in which the borders of culture, age, and gender were transcended by the desire to make a difference.

The week began with a group of strangers, meeting for the first time to build a house for a family in need. Fifty people stood in small groups, separated by different languages and social classes, waiting for instruction and staying close to those with whom they came. Some had traveled only down the block, while others hailed from different continents in a desire to help out. A few were professionals representing their companies, and others had seen the work of Habitat and just hoped to contribute what they could. Soon work began, and as the first walls of the house went up, the barriers between strangers began to fall. AmeriCorps members worked side by side with Whirlpool employees from around the world, a few "regulars" of the Jimmy Carter Work Project, and one lone woman who could not contain her joy at the prospect of owning her own home.

As the week progressed, the house was constructed and friendships were formed. Workers skilled in construction were seen helping those with less experience and as people learned new skills, they began to share them with the rest of the group. Language was no longer such a barrier as people came together and found ways to understand each other. AmeriCorps members began to realize that their contribution at the Jimmy Carter Work Project was not simply building one house in Michigan, but a small step down the path to eliminating substandard housing worldwide.

The idea of an Esprit de Corps was realized in a small town in Michigan this June as AmeriCorps members partnered with people from across the globe to reach out to a community in need and engage in work that was both meaningful and rewarding. Friendships were built, lives were touched, and the true meaning of volunteerism was revealed. The impact of such a large event allowed each member to understand the importance of the service he/she performs in the individual affiliates every day. Each small act contributes to a global mission helping families overcome poverty and circumstance.



RX for Indiana continues to serve Hoosiers who are in need of assistance with their prescription drugs. Over 90,000 people have used RX for Indiana to determine if they are eligible for assistance and 74% of those who have requested assistance have initially qualified – one of the highest match rates in the country!

The RX for Indiana Web Site has a new layout! Please visit www.rxforindiana.org to see its new and improved look.